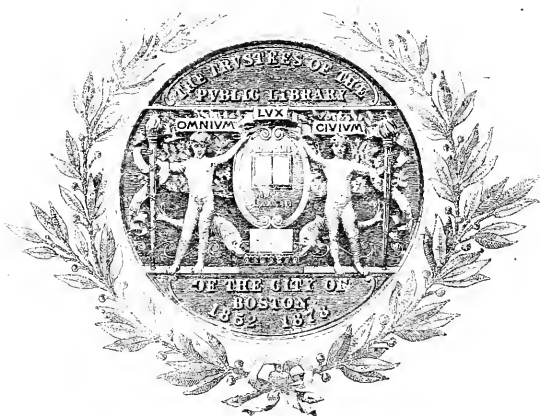
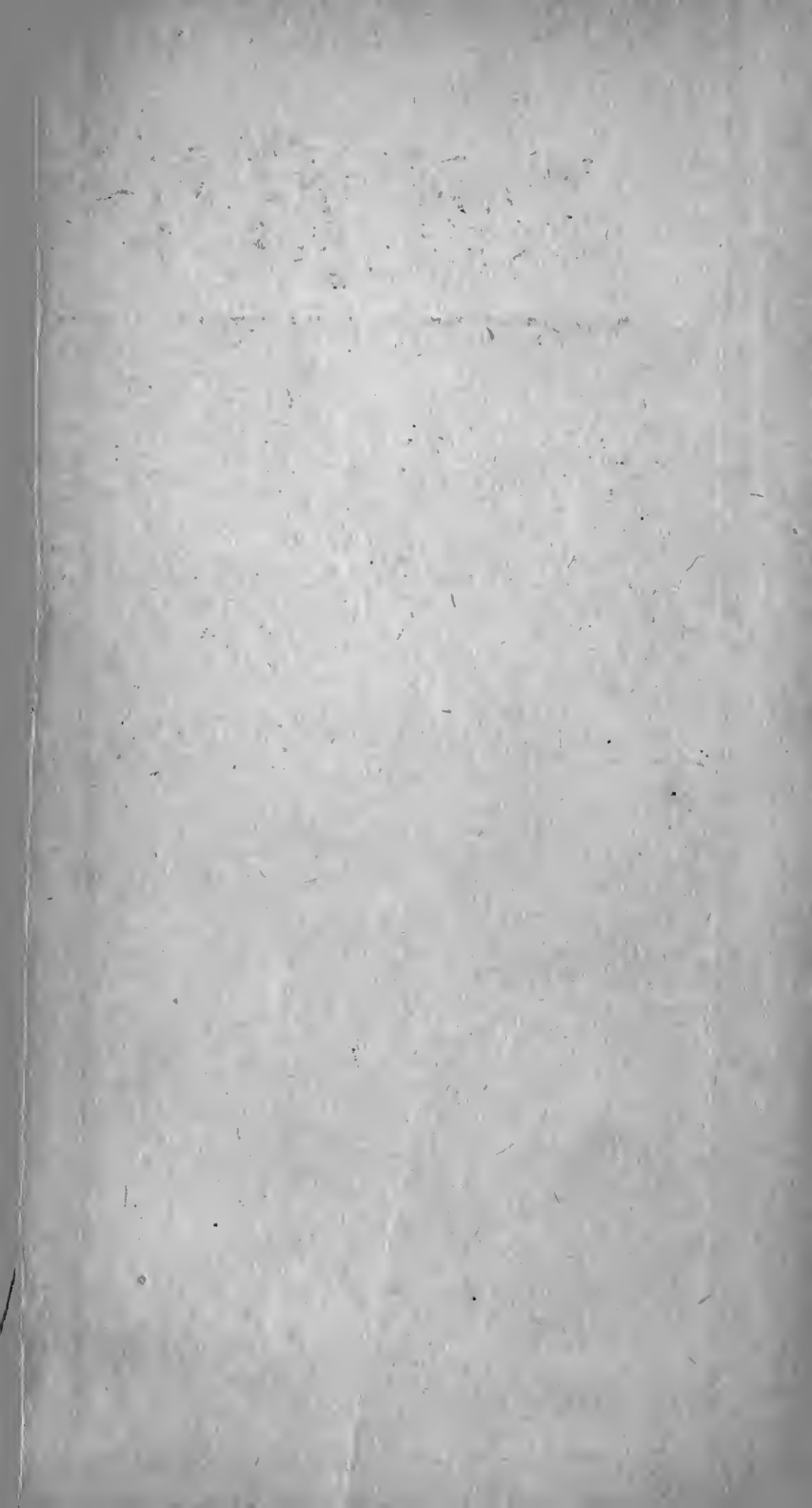




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*Common Council, No. 7—1836.*

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## **CITY OF BOSTON.**

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*In Common Council, June 30, 1836.*

The Report which follows, and the accompanying Resolves, were read, the Resolves ordered to a second reading, and the whole Document to be printed for the use of the members.

Attest,      RICHARD G. WAIT, *Clerk C. C.*

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The Committee appointed to consider and report, upon the subject of introducing a full supply of Water for the use, comfort and safety of the City, having authority to cause to be surveyed any other sources than those which have already been surveyed, with power to employ

such suitable persons, as they may judge necessary to obtain information, to enable them to make a full Report on the whole subject, have attended to that duty, and respectfully

## R E P O R T :

That their attention has been directed to *three* sources for a supply of water ; the first was to obtain a supply by sinking a large and deep shaft, or well into the earth, from 600 to 1000 feet. By those persons who favored this plan, it was expected, that an abundance of pure and soft Water would thus be easily found, and which might be distributed from Fort Hill or Copps Hill, to every part of the City, with facility and economy ; but your Committee after diligent inquiry, are not satisfied, that this mode of obtaining water can be relied upon with safety, as affording a suitable supply, and it was accordingly rejected.

Another source was pointed out, not liable to the same objection. This is Stoney Brook in Roxbury, but after analization by Dr. Jackson, it was pronounced to be “not sufficiently pure for the purposes of the City.” There now remained one other source to be examined, viz. Horn Pond, and other Ponds emptying into Mystic Pond, together with Spy and Fresh Ponds, in Cambridge.

Mr. Robert H. Eddy has been employed to make surveys and estimates for Water, from these places, he has labored successfully in this service, and his Report will command attention from such, as feel the deep solicitude upon this subject which



its importance seems to require. The first object of the Engineer was to obtain a supply of Water, equal to all the present wants of the City. Spot Pond, the source relied upon, by Professor Treadwell in his Report to the City Government, in the year 1825, was examined again, and it occurred to the Engineer, that the object might be effected, by rearing an embankment, at a favorable point, and thus secure a reservoir of sixty acres, in which to retain the surplus Waters of Spot Pond, which Waters, now run uselessly into the sea, they may thus be preserved for the use of the City. He is of opinion that Spot Pond may in this mode, be made to yield an ample supply for all the purposes of the City at present, and indeed for a long time to come. This water is of the best quality, pure and soft. Whenever the increase of public wants, shall render a *further* supply needful, Mystic Pond will be found to be an abundant source. The plan and estimates will be found in the Report of Mr. Eddy. Upon the reception of this Report, the Committee directed that 1,000 copies should be printed for the disposal of the City Council, with a plan of what is denominated the "*Water Region*," and that to these should be added a copy of the act of the Legislature incorporating the Boston Hydraulic Company, which it will be perceived, is intimately connected with this subject. This act of the Legislature, will be void, unless the City Council, shall within four months, from the time of its passage, declare by vote, their assent thereto. Four months will expire on the

15th of August next. By the terms of this act, privileges of great value are reserved to the City, and it is for its government to determine, whether the act shall be valid or not—whether the work shall be done with, or without its participation. Your Committee are of opinion, That the sources relied upon in the Report of Mr. Eddy, are abundant,—That the water is pure and fit for domestic purposes,—That the plan of introducing this Water is attended with no great obstacles,—and That the expense, compared with the object, is not an unreasonable expense. Your Committee are further of opinion, that it will be for the interest of the City, that the assent required by the 14th section of the act incorporating the Boston Hydraulic Company, should be given. It will be seen by the Report that the Engineer's estimate to bring Water, in the manner proposed, from Spot Pond to Boston, including a reservoir at Bunker Hill, amounts to the sum of \$388,747,96, to this sum add for cost of distribution in the City, say \$300,000, making a total of 688,747,96. If we suppose the value of the Real Estate in the City to be as assessed \$50,000,000, the expense of introducing an abundant and unfailing supply of pure Water, to be employed for the purposes of domestic consumption, the promotion of health, protection from fire, and for ornament, will be about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the present value of the Real Estate of the City, exclusive however of the sum which may be demanded for *water rights* of Spot Pond. When the number of inhabitants shall be so much increased as to

demand a quantity of water greater than this source can supply, the immense volume, which is now passing from Mystic Pond into the sea, can be turned into the Reservoir, and made to subserve our purposes; and this, as it is estimated by the Engineer, at an additional expense of \$218,000.

A majority of the Committee are of opinion that the City, in its corporate capacity, ought *not* to embark in this enterprize, but that it should be left to individuals alone, or individuals in connexion with the City. A minority of the Committee were, however, of a different opinion; believing that so great and beneficial, are the objects proposed, that the public welfare demanded *certainty* and *despatch* in the execution of the business. By the terms of the act incorporating the Boston Hydraulic Company, the City can hereafter purchase the whole of their interest on specified terms, and this is deemed by your Committee, to be an important feature in the act. The Report of Mr. Eddy, the certified copy of the act incorporating the Boston Hydraulic Company, and a petition from the Corporators of the Company will be found with this Report. On the whole, your Committee recommend the adoption of the subjoined resolutions.

For the Committee,

SAM. T. ARMSTRONG, *Chairman.*

June 30, 1836.

1     *Resolved*, That it is expedient for the City  
2 Council to give their assent to the act of the  
3 Legislature, passed on the 16th of April, 1836,  
4 incorporating the Boston Hydraulic Company.

1     *Resolved*, That it is expedient for the City to  
2 subscribe for one third of the stock in the Bos-  
3 ton Hydraulic Company, under such restric-  
4 tions and limitations, as the City Council may  
5 hereafter prescribe.

1     *Resolved*, That the printed copies of the Re-  
2 port of Mr. R. H. Eddy, be distributed as fol-  
3 lows, to each member of the City Council ten  
4 copies, and the remaining copies be placed at  
5 the disposal of the Mayor and Aldermen.

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